(b) and (c) It is the Policy of the Government to allow the exports of item of mass consumption in such a manner that it docs not compromise the food security system. For this purpose, except Non-Basmati rice the exports of Food Grains are either under licensing or subject to registration with Agricultural Processed Food and Export Development Authoritj-(APEDA). The import of cereals is canalised through Food Corporation of India (FCI) and import of wheat flour is restricted and subject to licensing. After actual exports or imports have been effected, the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta complies the export-import statistics. The system in vogue (computerised) is working satisfactorily.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

CBI Inquiry about STC

3235. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inquiry had been conducted by CBI in respect of State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the amount involved therein;

(c) whether any action has been taken on the said Report;

(d) if so, the details of officials involved in the racket; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BALLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (e) In some cases the investigation has been completed by CBI and are at the stage of trial in different courts. Some cases have been closed by CBI after investigation. In a few cases, CBI is conducting its investigations.

Removal of import Curbs

3236. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: SHRI O.P. KOHLI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'EU demand removal of import curbs in two years' which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 21st March, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the status of balance of payment as on date and the estimated projection of BOP by June, 1999, the deadline given by EU; and

(d) the item and the agenda for discussion of Brussels scheduled during April, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BALLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) The news item referred to in part (a) of the question had appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 22 March, 1997. The news item draws on a press briefing by Mr. Herve Jouanjean, Director, European Commission, at the conclusion of bilateral discussions with India on issues relating to quantitative restrictions maintained on imports for safequarding the balance of payments.

It is recalled that during the consultations held with India in Geneva in January, 1997, the Committee on Balance of payment Restrictions of the World Trade Organisation, after hearing the statements made by India and other Members and the International Monetary Fund, invited India to present a plan to eliminate the quantitative restrictions on imports maintained by India for balance of payments purposes and agreed to resume the consulations in the week beginning 2 June, 1997 to consider the plan.

As a follow up of discussions held in